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26 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique of the Film "We Will Bury You"

"We Will Bury You," a 75-minute Columbia Films production, is an interesting and instructive bird's-eye view of the rise of Communism since 1905. However, since it covers so much ground in little time, it is necessarily superficial and fragmentary, though it would undoubtedly be effective with the popular audience for whom it was produced.

It consists mainly of excerpts from newsreels but also contains shots taken from official Soviet propaganda and historical films, such as "Potemkin." Some of the early shots, e.g., of the Czar, Lenin, and Trotsky, have considerable historical interest. The film is tied together by an adequate running commentary.

Historical accuracy is sometimes sacrificed to achieve effect. Some of the shots, for example, are chronologically or historically out of place. This weakness detracts from the worth of the film as a serious documentary.

It would be good for troop indoctrination, for example, but I can see no place for it in our training program.

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